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**“Q&A”**

Q: What is the best grass for a high-traffic lawn in full sun? We have three children and three dogs.

A: Bermuda grass is the most traffic-tolerant lawn grass and prospers in full sun. Use sod or seed. The seed take 3-4 weeks to germinate and grows to the height that requires mowing. Keep the children and dogs off the lawn for several weeks for the sod and 6 weeks for seeded grass to allow it to establish.

Q: We live in an area dominated by live oaks. Is it a good idea to try different species? What do you recommend?

A: Mexican white oak is a good choice. It is evergreen, drought tolerant and attractive. It grows faster than live oak and is not susceptible to oak wilt.

Q: Is it too late to plant tomatoes? Are there any other vegetables we can plant now? We just finished our new raised bed.

A: Plant tomatoes if you can find large transplants in 1-gallon or larger containers. It is not too late to plant peppers and eggplant transplants or okra and southern pea seed.

Q: Last year our lawn was devastated by grubs. When should we apply a soil insecticide to prevent the damage this year?

A: Apply a soil insecticide as soon as you notice the June bugs flying around your porch light, usually sometime in May.

Q: I was visiting a friend’s house last weekend and noticed beautiful irises that were just finishing their bloom. This was in a neighborhood loaded with deer. Why hasn’t everyone told me that iris is deer proof?

A: Iris is among my favorite perennials. The flowers can be spectacular and the foliage makes a tough, drought-tolerant ground cover. I have been writing and speaking about their deer-proof characteristics in my neighborhood for years. I am frequently reminded, however, that the deer eat them in some neighborhoods.

Q: What spray controls black spot on roses? We have gone two years without any problem, but it is prevalent this year.

A: As dry as it has been, fungus disease has not been a problem on most sites. Are you sprinkling the foliage when you water the lawn? Use triforine (Funginex) for black spot.

For questions about horticulture, water conservation and the environment, email Calvin Finch at Calvin.finch@tamu.edu